

corresponding to 53 IU per unit dose or 70.7 mg in a 75% formulation)). The exemplified Tritsch tablets clearly fall outside Applicants claimed concentrations and ratios.

This is because a mineral-containing composition is not easily compressible and therefore generally requires high compression forces to produce acceptable tablets. Accordingly one of skill in the art would predict that the high compression forces required to form a multivitamin/mineral tablet would lead to bleeding of encapsulated Vitamin E into the matrix of the tablet and thereby lead to an unstable tablet. Tritsch does not provide a solution to this problem, nor suggest a method of producing Applicants' stable tablets containing at least 100 IU of Vitamin E and further containing vitamins and minerals. Neither Boyle, EP 0595005 and Schmidt provide this teaching.

Accordingly Applicants assert that their claimed compositions, which do provide a stable tablets containing the aforementioned vitamins and minerals are not obvious over Tritsch, Boyle, EP 0595005 and Schmidt, either singly or in combination. It is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that each of the Examiner's grounds for rejection is properly stated, traversed, accommodated or rendered moot and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

#### **FEES**

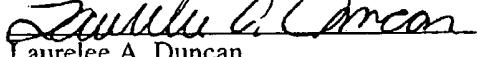
No fees should be due. However, if it is determined that a fee is due, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 19-3880 in the name of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

#### **SUMMARY**

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that this case proceed to issuance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if it is believed prosecution could be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
Patent Department  
P.O. Box 4000  
Princeton, NJ 08543-4000  
609-252-5323

  
Laurelee A. Duncan  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 44,096

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